

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: University of North Texas

Application ID: 13AC145233

Program Name: Texas HIPPY - AmeriCorps

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant provides persuasive evidence that the identified needs exist in the community. The applicant states that most HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) children are economically disadvantaged (89%) according to school district standards for free and reduced lunch.

(+) The applicant provides documentation of the extent/severity of the need in the target community. For example, the applicant details School Readiness Need, and explains a proven and direct relationship between a parent regularly reading to a young child and that child's school readiness and later success; 41% of Texas parents are reading daily to their young children ages 3-5.

(+) The applicant states that the population chosen is based on the existing HIPPY program, and details the characteristics of program participants focusing on the school readiness need.

(+) The applicant describes AmeriCorps member activities, roles and/or responsibilities clearly and provides specific examples. For example, the model consists of two service components: weekly home visits and monthly parent meetings. The majority of Member time will be devoted to providing weekly one-hour HIPPY home visits to each family served, allowing Members to provide one-on-one support and training directly too hard to reach parents.

(+) The HIPPY model is an evidence-based curriculum that will be implemented by the AmeriCorps members and volunteers.

(+) The applicant demonstrates community impact using prior year results of parents and children participating in the HIPPY program. During 2011-2012, 86% of children were deemed ready for school, 93.5% were average or above average in classroom capability, and 93.4% of children were average or above average in classroom verbal behavior. Parents participating in HIPPY increased the amount of time reading to their children, increased the time interacting with their child's teacher and increased their school involvement. The applicant includes testimonies from parents who participated in the HIPPY model.